

cooperative relationship between regulators and their supervised institutions.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF THE HUI PANALAAU COLONISTS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I am deeply honored to represent Hawaii—my home State is second to none when it comes to patriotism, public service, and personal sacrifice.

I thank the Senate for so swiftly passing S. Res. 109, a resolution I authored to acknowledge the deeds of 130 brave young men from Hawaii who answered the call to serve our country at a perilous time in our Nation's history.

Passage of this resolution commemorates the 80th anniversary of the landing of the first Native Hawaiian colonists on remote equatorial islands in the Pacific. It also marks the 79th year since President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an Executive order to proclaim the islands of Jarvis, Howland, and Baker under the jurisdiction of the United States.

This was a 7-year colonization effort from 1935 to 1942 to secure and maintain the islands under the jurisdiction of the United States. The vast majority of the 130 individuals involved in colonization efforts were Native Hawaiian—many recent high school graduates of the Kamehameha Schools. Later colonists included those of Asian ancestry and recent graduates from high schools across Hawaii.

These young men left their homes and families to be transported to barren equatorial islands, and were then largely left to fend for themselves and each other. They caught fish, constructed rudimentary lodgings, and throughout the years demonstrated great courage and self-reliance. What started as a dual purpose commercial and military venture, however, quickly evolved into a wartime strategy to extend American jurisdiction into the equatorial Pacific, establish radio communications and monitoring outposts, and prevent further Japanese encroachment in the region.

Three young men lost their lives and others sustained permanent injuries during their service. Jarvis, Howland, and Baker were distant from each other and located hundreds of miles away from any major landmass. One colonist died due to the lack of access to medical treatment. Two others were killed on December 8, 1941, when the islands came under attack by Japanese submarine and military aircraft.

The islands were targeted by the Japanese military numerous times. The U.S. Navy, consumed by the bombing of Pearl Harbor and official entry into World War II, could not rescue the surviving colonists until 2 months after the initial onslaught of Japanese military attacks.

Upon their arrival home, the colonists shared little about their experiences or the hardships they endured on those remote equatorial islands. They

returned to Hawaii to enlist in the U.S. military, join the civilian workforce, pursue higher education, raise families, serve their communities, and live out their days in relative anonymity. In 1956, participants of the colonization project established an organization in Hawaii called Hui Panalaaui, in part to preserve “the fellowship of the group” and “to honor and esteem those who died as colonists.” Still, few outside of that group were even aware that colonists had served on equatorial islands in the Pacific in the years before and during the advent of World War II.

A chance discovery of first source documents found in the possession of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, including handwritten journals and logs of colonists, led to an exhibition in 2002 and later the release of a documentary in 2012, based in part on those discoveries and supplemented with the personal recollections of a number of surviving colonists. This film introduced the subject to many in Hawaii. People in our State and across the Nation learned about a significant but previously unknown part of our history.

Last year, President Obama signed an Executive order expanding the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to include Jarvis, Howland, and Baker, and I worked to ensure that his proclamation cited the “notable bravery and sacrifice by a small number of voluntary Hawaiian colonists, known as Hui Panalaaui, who occupied the islands from 1935 to 1942 to help secure the U.S. territorial claim over the islands.”

And now the Senate has taken the formal action to extend our Nation's deep appreciation to the Hui Panalaaui colonists as well as condolences to the families of the three men that lost their lives in service of their country. It is my hope that the story of the Hui Panalaaui colonists will be shared even more widely in Hawaii. It is also my sincere hope that the sacrifices and valor of the 130 sons of Hawaii will be understood in the context of the broader geopolitical strategy of World War II and that their deeds will be more fully understood and appreciated by Americans across the Nation.

I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate for their support of this resolution, and their efforts to expedite committee consideration and floor passage.

I also want to thank the entire Hawaii congressional delegation—Senator HIRONO, Representative TAKAI, and Representative GABBARD—for supporting this coordinated effort.

The fact that the Senate chose to recognize the legacy of the Hui Panalaaui colonists today, during the month of May—Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month—holds great significance. May is a time of year we celebrate the vibrant diversity and rich heritage of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Island-

ers and reflect on their contributions to our Nation's progress, and their prospective role in America's continuing promise.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING GEORGE HALEY

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to honor the life of George Haley, a distinguished Tennessean and distinguished American who died at the age of 89 on May 13.

President Clinton appointed George as Ambassador to Gambia, the country from which George's ninth generation grandfather, Kunta Kinte, was captured and brought to Annapolis, MD in the hold of a slave ship. George's brother, Alex, wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, “Roots,” about the Haley family history.

Simon P. Haley, the father of George and Alex, was “wasted” when he was growing up. This meant, as Alex told the story, that Simon was allowed to continue his education, “wasting” the opportunity for him to work in the cotton fields. Alex wrote the story of Simon P. Haley in the Reader's Digest article, “The Man on the Train,” telling how his father had become the first black graduate of Cornell's agriculture college, and then came to Jackson, TN to teach at Lane College.

It was in the small West Tennessee town of Henning where Alex would sit by the front porch steps in the summer listening to his grandmother and great aunts tell the stories of Kunta Kinte that eventually became “Roots.”

George Haley, after serving in the Air Force, entered The University of Arkansas Law School in 1949, where he was required to live and study in a cramped basement to separate him from the white students. “It was reminiscent of a slave in the hold of a ship,” he once said, “I was the Kunta Kinte of the law school.” He stuck it out, graduating as a member of the law review. Alex wrote about him as well in the Reader's Digest, “The Man Who Wouldn't Quit.” George had a remarkable and diverse career serving as a Republican state senator in Kansas and then between 1969 and his death, serving in the administration of Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush.

I first met George when I was governor of Tennessee during the 1980s. He introduced me to Alex, who became one of our family's closest friends. Few men or women have shown the intelligence, courage and sense of public responsibility during their lifetimes that George Haley demonstrated. He was a kind man and a good friend. Honey and I offer our sympathies to his wife Doris and to other members of the Haley family. When remembering the life of George Haley, it is easy to do what his brother Alex always advised, “Find the Good and Praise It.”